

ANOPHELES FREEBORNI HIBERNATING IN  
WOOD RATS' NESTS (Diptera: Culicidae)

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While collecting *Triatoma* from the nests of *Neotoma fuscipes* Baird on November 27, 1950, at Redlands, California, several anophelines were observed flying from the food and dung chambers of a wood rat's nest. Five specimens of some 20 mosquitoes were collected. On examination they were found to be four females and one male of *Anopheles freeborni* Aitken; two of the females had recently obtained a blood meal. Several of the mosquitoes which were disturbed on opening the nest made definite directional flights back into the remaining portions of the nest. One may conclude from their desire to re-enter the nest that this is a preferred habitat and not one accidentally discovered by them.

On February 5, 1951, three wood rats' nests were opened in the San Timoteo Canyon, 11 miles southeast of Redlands, California. The nests were located 150 yards from suitable anopheline breeding grounds and 300 yards from the nearest cattle.

The following data were obtained from these three nests.

Nest No. 1. Twelve females of *Anopheles freeborni* present.

Nest size: 6 feet in diameter at base and 5 feet high.

Nest No. 2. Nine females of *A. freeborni*.

Nest size: 4 feet in diameter at base and 3 feet high.

Nest No. 3. Ten females of *A. freeborni*.

Nest size: 6 feet in diameter at base and 4½ feet high.

Many of the mosquitoes were in the central portion of the brushpile-like nest, being surrounded by as much as two feet of nesting material. Seventy-one per cent of the mosquitoes had plump abdomens and 29 per cent were rather slender. None of the mosquitoes had obtained a fresh blood meal for at least several days. Seriological examination is contemplated if mosquitoes are found with recent blood meals, to determine whether the hibernating females may have fed on the wood rats in the interior chambers of the nest.

These findings show that this ecological niche should be considered when endeavoring to reduce the population of overwintering anopheline females.